

[Tom Kelley]

Carlson/LM I and III 241-LA Dup

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln

DATE November 15, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Tom Kelley, 416 No. 27th
2. Date and time of interview Wed., Nov. 16th, 9 to 11:30 p.m.
3. Place of interview 416 North 27th.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant J. P. Scofield, 541 North 26th
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Lives with son in large moderately furnished home. C.15 Neb.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln.

DATE November 16, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Tom Kelly, 416 North 27th.

1. Ancestry Irish
2. Place and date of birth Illinois, 1861.
3. Family Wife dead. One son.
4. Places lived in, with dates Illinois, 1861-1867; Nebr. up to present time.
5. Education, with dates Primary school
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farmer-laborer.
7. Special skills and interests Home and family.
8. Community and religious activities Catholic.
9. Description of informant Small, with mustache. Slightly deaf. Able for his 77 years.
10. Other points gained in interview Nebraska pioneer.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln, Nebr.

DATE November 16, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Tom Kelly, 416 North 27th.

We came to Nebraska after leaving Illinois in a covered wagon. It took us a month to come to Nebraska, no Indian trouble, just a few wandering tribes. This was in 1871, Located at a homestead in Fillmore County. The Burlington railroad was only built as far as Crete at that time; they built the railroad on further. The settlers helped build the railroad by using their

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teams, horses and mules. They just had primeval things to work with. When the ground was froze they had to quit for a while.

We went through several bad winters especially in 1888. The longest storm started in April on Easter and lasted three days.

We lived in a Bohemian neighborhood near Exeter. A town that used to be called Sawyer, is now I think, obsolete.

More towns will be obsolete because people with cars go to larger towns to trade.

A small band of Indians camped near our place in winter time and they were doing some trapping and my brother and I thought we would look them over so we went down one morning one bright morning, crisp and cold and they were just packing up to leave. The old women were doing all the work and they had taken down their tents all but one where they kept the little chaps and one of the children had no clothes on at all.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

Have seen all sorts of signs fail in regard to the weather.

A man once tried to break two elk but he had to give it up.

A lot of fellows drifted to the west who could play a fiddle. You would go to a dance and there would be a young man you had not seen before playing fiddle. A lot of men drifted around playing for dances. People would play from memory and very seldom could read a note.

The Bohemians were great musicians and would play for dances. The accordion was one of their favorite instruments. Also saw them play bagpipes. Saw a Bohemian play a bagpipe and drink beer at the same time.

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My mother spun all her wool on her spinning wheel. Had the sheep for the wool and would shear them twice a year. The clothing manufactured at home in those days would outlast present clothing.

The wool was picked and then washed and then they would card and spin it and then knit it by hand.